been completed and 33 Kms is targeted for completion during 2005-06. On electrification project, 252 Toute Kilometre (RKM) has already been energized and rest is targeted for completion by December, 2005.

(c) All the minimum essential amenities as per norms have already been provided at Quilon.

'SOFT' Scheme of Frequent Travellers

1171. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways is thinking of introducing a scheme called SOFT Scheme of frequent Travellers;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) how does it help in competing with the air travel;

(d) whether the Railways is going to create a separate agency for handling this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In order to improve the occupancy of higher classes, a Scheme of Frequent Travellers (SOFT) is being launched which will be applicable to 1st AC, 2nd AC & AC Chair Car classes. A Frequent Traveller will get a complimentary train trip after certain number of reward points are accumulated.

(c) The SOFT scheme is passenger friendly and is expected to improve occupancy in higher classes.

(d) and (e) The Scheme will be managed by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Doubling of Jaipur-Dausa Rail Line

†1172. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been accorded for laying double line from Jaipur to Dausa in North-West Zone;

(b) the action being taken at present and the work proposed to be done in the year 2005-06; and

(c) whether this work is proposed to be extended to Bandikui Junction?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of doubling of Jaipur-Dausa has been included in the Budget 2005-06. Preliminary arrangements like preparation of plans, estimate, etc. have been taken up. Detailed estimate is under sanction.

(c) Doubling of single line section is taken up when their carrying capacity is saturated. Doubling of Dausa-Bandikui section will be considered once the traffic warrants the same subject to a availability of resources.

Extension Of Shivganga Express upto Balia

†1173. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to extend Shivganga Express (2559/2560) from New Delhi upto Balia keeping in view the crowd of passengers and number of trains;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) At present, Ballia is well connected to Delhi/New Delhi by 6 pairs of trains including 2561/2562 Darbhanga-New Delhi Swatantrata Sainani Express and 2435/2436 Guwahati-New Delhi Rajdhani Express. Extension of 2559/2560 Varanasi-New Delhi Shivganga Express upto Ballia is not feasible, at present, due to operational constraints including severe line capacity constraints on Varanasi-Aunrihar section.

Ban on booking of parcels

1174. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Coast Railway has imposed a ban on booking of parcels weighing more than 20 kgs.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no other Zonal Railway has imposed such a ban;

(c) if so, the rationale behind imposing this ban by the East Coast Railway;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.